

Message Text

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17

ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02

SCS-03 SCA-01 /063 R

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ARA/PAF:KMARSHALL

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R 122322Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, SHUM, CI

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON AMY CONGER

1. FOLLOWING IS PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR NOON BRIEFING
JANUARY 12, 1976. NO QUESTION WAS ASKED.

2. QUOTE: Q. IS IT TRUE THAT AN AMERICAN WOMAN, AMY
CONGER O'FLAHERTY, WAS TORTURED BY THE CHILEAN MILITARY AND
THE USG HAS DONE NOTHING ABOUT IT?

A. MS. CONGER WAS DETAINED BY THE CHILEAN AIR FORCE
OCTOBER 11, 1974. SHE WAS HELD FOR 12 DAYS. HER RELEASE
WAS OBTAINED BY THE U.S. CONSUL WITHIN ONE DAY AFTER WE
WERE INFORMED OF HER DETENTION THROUGH HER FATHER IN THE
U.S. THE USG PROMPTLY MADE REPRESENTATIONS ON THREE
DIFFERENT OCCASIONS (ORALLY AND IN PERSON) ON THE FAILURE
OF THE GOC TO INFORM OUR EMBASSY SHE WAS BEING HELD AS
REQUIRED BY THE VIENNA CONVENTION. IN A NOTE OF DECEMBER
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1974, THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT APOLOGIZED FOR ITS FAILURE TO

COMPLY WITH THE CONSULAR CONVENTION. HER FATHER SUBSEQUENTLY EXPRESSED IN WRITING HIS APPRECIATION FOR OUR EMBASSY'S EFFORTS ON HIS DAUGHTER'S BEHALF.

FOLLOWING HER RETURN TO THE U.S. WE LEARNED FURTHER DETAILS

REGARDING HER TREATMENT WHILE IN DETENTION. ON THE BASIS OF THIS OUR EMBASSY ASKED THE GOC BY NOTE FOR AN EXPLANATION. THE GOC RESPONSE OF FEBRUARY 4, 1975 DENIED HER CHARGES OF MISTREATMENT. THE DEPARTMENT DISCUSSED THE GOC RESPONSE WITH MS. CONGER AND PROVIDED HER WITH A COPY. SHE PROVIDED US AN ADDITIONAL STATEMENT, GIVING US MORE DETAILS ON HER EXPERIENCES AND REBUTTED THE GOC EXPLANATION. THIS STATEMENT WAS DELIVERED TO THE GOC BY OUR EMBASSY LAST AUGUST. WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED A REPLY.

Q. IS THE EMBASSY FOLLOWING UP?

A. YES. UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

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